

Norman Forward  
Griffin Park  
Ad Hoc Advisory Group  
May 11, 2017

The Norman Forward Griffin Park Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Conference Room on the 11th day of May, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Street, 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Dillingham and Members Fuentes, Gillis, Laffoon and Ex-Officio Salmond

Absent: Member Woodfin and Ex-Officio Anil Gollaholli

City Officials

Present: Terry Floyd, Development Coordinator  
Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Matt Hendren, Parks Superintendent  
Leslie Tabor, ADG Consultants  
Karla Chapman, Administrative Technician IV

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ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Fuentes made the motion and Member Laffoon seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Dillingham and Members Fuentes, Gillis, and Laffoon

NAY: None

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ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 27, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Member Laffoon made the motion and Member Gillis seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Dillingham and Members Fuentes, Gillis, and Laffoon

NAY: None

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ITEM 4, being:

PRESENTATION OF THE PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS

Jim Crosby, with Planning Design Group (PDG) said the Committee selected Concept B for the Norman Griffin Park Sports Complex at the April 11, 2017 Ad Hoc meeting and highlighted the changes requested by the Committee as follows: The East and West areas located on either side of the Indoor Sports Facility will allow for a full sized indoor soccer field if any future expansion(s) are desired. The concept includes 1780 parking spaces and fields were shifted slightly allowing a 50 foot separation between fields. The plaza was refined with a larger opening into the public park area and the premier field is larger. Drop-off areas near the plaza were added and bathrooms were moved for

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easier access. Jim said the revised concept reflected secured fence around the Soccer Complex and said Traffic Engineering Consultants (TEC) are currently looking at High Meadows Drive to determining whether an east entrance can be created that will tie into the public parking along Robinson Street. He said the street would cross the creek and Fields #21 and #22 may need to be removed or adjusted.

Member Gillis was concerned that the drop off area near the plaza was not being wide enough and encouraged the consultants to open it up more so traffic will not bottle-neck. Member Fuentes agreed and felt a one-way drop off lane could be established. Member Gillis suggested losing a couple of parking spaces on the north and south so cars in the drop off area could circle around in a loop and Jud Foster agreed stating making the small change would also tie the entrance/exit back into the interior roads of the park. Ryan Eshelman with GSB said the plan can be reconfigured and parking can be altered to widen and make the drop off area a circle in/out space.

Member Fuentes asked if the plan was to leave Field #17 so it could be utilized as a practice field and Jim said there is green space to the west of the proposed Maintenance Facility building that could also be used as a practice area. Jud said that particular space is currently used for disc golf and said he very much liked the plan as well as what PDG has done with the space; however, is one field for public use going to be enough. He suggested not fencing the four (4) fields up front, off of Robison Street, and let them be utilized as public fields. Jim said initially the Committee wanted at least 20 fields and the number of fields on the draft plan is 22. He said the plan can be changed and fields shifted and Geoff agreed stating the plan can be reconfigured to reflect practice fields near the larger lawn space(s). Member Fuentes asked what the minimum parking spaces is for a 20 field complex and Geoff said bare minimum would be 1200.

Jim asked whether the disc golf area could be switched to the area around the pond and Jud said he was concerned with the mix of use and possible conflicts with adjacent space. Chairman Dillingham agreed and reminded the Committee that "balance of use" in the park is very important. Member Gillis said fencing is very important and Member Fuentes agreed stating fencing is a must for safety reasons. Geoff Evans with Planning Design Group (PDG) said a fence can be installed with an opening and/or have a locked gate and Jud agreed.

Jim Crosby with Planning Design Group (PDG) handed out a preliminary budget for the Griffin Park Sports Complex and said the numbers are based on current material costs as well as previous projects completed by PDG. Jim said the initial total estimated project cost is \$15,960,665.43; however this figure does not include the park area in the northeast corner of the park. Jim highlighted the line items with the Committee stating the numbers are within reason and requested input from the Committee.

Member Laffoon asked the Committee's thoughts on not doing the Indoor Facility at this time and said it will only serve a small percentage of the Norman Youth Soccer Association (NYSA). Ryan Eshelman with GSB said the Indoor Facility is perceived as a community asset and Chairman Dillingham felt there might be negative public reaction if the Indoor Facility is not in the initial plan. Jud Foster reminded the Committee that the Griffin Park Sports Complex Plan could be done in phases. Chairman Dillingham said deferring the Indoor Facility to Phase Two would give time for discussions regarding public access to the fields. Member Gillis asked how much it would cost to construct a shell for the Indoor Facility and Ryan said he could develop an estimate. Member Laffoon suggested keeping Field #17 and leave the indoor facility footprint on the plans. Geoff said the referee room was to be located within the Indoor Facility; however, one of the concession/restroom areas can be expanded for a referee area. Ryan felt apprehensive about reducing the parking areas because of the current parking problems. He suggested eliminating Fields #21 and #22 (for now) in order to complete more amenities. Ryan said a complete project is better than having more fields but less park amenities.

Chairman Dillingham along with Members Fuentes, Gillis, and Laffoon requested time to re-evaluate the budget as well as discuss and determine priorities with NYSA members. They felt it was important have a good idea of the budget and priorities before making a recommendation to the Park Board Public Meeting scheduled on June 6, 2017.

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ITEM 5 being:

### **DISCUSSION OF PHASE TWO REGRADING**

Member Gillis felt the phase two regrading was off the table because the window to sod and/or regrow the grass is too small and the Committee agreed. Jim Crosby with Planning Design Group (PDG) said the Committee could choose to do a lighting project instead, in place of the phase two regrading. Geoff Evans with PDG said he has recently been in contact with Musco to discuss lighting the fields around the perimeter. He said the lighting is not LED and Chairman Dillingham asked whether the design included switching to LED in the future. Geoff said yes, light poles can be up-designed; however, new wires may need to be pulled. He said most facilities do not see a return on the LED lighting unless the facilities are being used 5-6 nights per week. Anything less may take 10 years to return an investment, but he felt Musco may work with the City of Norman because the Griffin Park Sports Complex will be a great facility and the only one of its size in the metro area. Member Steve felt a small lighting project would be doable; however, Jud Foster suggested doing a lighting project may be premature until the budget was figured out. Member Gillis asked whether a lighting project could be done in August or September and Jud said only if it made sense to do so. Geoff agreed and suggested the Committee figure out the budget along with the top project priorities before proceeding with a lighting project. Member Fuentes felt the number of fields that definitely need to be lit must be determined. Jud said he understood that project momentum is important; however, holding meetings; having discussions; and determining the right design concept are big achievements. He felt there would be no harm in waiting to do a project and possibly tackling two projects in 2018.

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ITEM 6 being:

### **MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.

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ITEM 7, being:

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Gillis made the motion and Member Fuentes seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Dillingham and Members Fuentes, Gillis, and Laffoon

NAY: None

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017.

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Carol Dillingham, Chairperson